

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please delete lines 5-8 on page 7 of the specification.

On page 1, following the title, please insert:

Field of the Invention

On page 2, at line 17, please insert:

Background of the Invention

On page 10, at line 27, please insert:

Brief Description of the Drawings

On page 11, at line 27, please insert:

Detailed Description of the Invention

On page 6, at line 28, please insert:

Summary of the Invention

Please amend lines 17-26 on page 11 of the specification as follows:

Figure 3a shows the measurement of plasmas of 5 groups of human patients with different diseases/diagnoses, compared with the measurements for apparently healthy persons; the dotted line indicates the maximum value found in healthy persons (line for 100% specificity, based on healthy controls);

Figure 3b shows a diagram corresponding to Figure 3a, for four further groups of patient plasmas.